

# Class-X Civics Political Parties

Why do we need political parties?

※ Most visible institutions in a democracy 😞??

→ Evolution of political parties over the period of hundred years

“A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government”

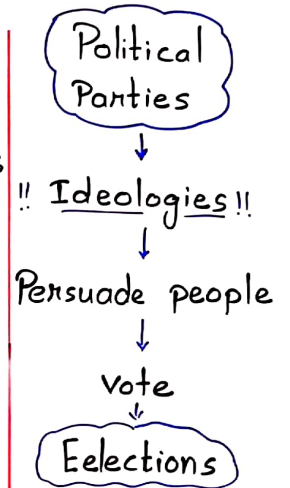
※ A political party has three components:

- The leaders.
- The active members.
- The followers.



Partisanship 😞??

· Feeling of Commitment toward party, group or faction



# Class-X Civics Political Parties

## Functions of Political Parties

- \* Political Parties Contest elections. → [Candidates]
- \* Parties put forward different policies and programmes.
  - Different opinions → Party opinion → Government takes decisions on line of Ruling Party.
- \* Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a Country. [Direction of Party leadership].
- \* Parties form and run government → [Ministers, Prime Minister]
- \* Parties play the role of opposition → [keeps a check on the working of government]
- \* Parties shape public opinion → [Lakhs of Members] [Opinions based on Party's Stand]
- \* Access to government machinery and welfare schemes.
  - Ordinary Citizen → Can easily reach local leaders → Gateway to reach programmes.

# Class-X Civics Political Parties

## Necessity of Political Parties??

※ Imagine a situation without political parties.

→ Independent Candidates 😞

- No uniform decision
- No Major decision
- accountability would be limited to Constituency only.
- No one would be responsible to look after the Country.

※ Representative democracies

→ Large Societies → Need representation

↓  
Represented through  
Political Parties

※ Different views/opinions of Society Can be expressed through Single agency.

※ Responsible government Could be formed.

# Class-X Civics Political Parties

How many parties should we have?

∴ Citizens/Groups are free to form political parties → [More than 750 Political Parties are registered with EC of India.]

→ But not all are serious contenders 😞??

∴ One-party System.

→ One party is allowed to control and run the government. [China → Communist Party]

→ It is not a democratic option.

∴ Two-Party System

→ Chances of winning is between two main parties [US and UK].

∴ Multi-Party System

→ More than two parties compete for power.

→ Coalition government is observed.

→ NDA, UPA and Left front [India]

∴ So, which of these system is best?

→ This is not a very good question. 😞??

• No system is ideal for all countries and all situations.

∴ Party system for a country evolves over a period of time depending on the nature of society, its social and religious division, its political history.

# Class-X Civics Political Parties

## National Parties

∴ Country wide parties → National Parties

→ These Parties have their units in various states → Works broadly on National lines.

→ Required to register with the election Commission

↓  
It offers some special facilities to large and established parties.

- ∴ Given a unique symbol
- ∴ Recognised political parties.

∴ According to these proportion of votes and seats there were seven national parties in the country in 2017.

Criteria for recognised party.



• 6% of votes in Lok Sabha election

or  
• 6% of votes in Assembly elections in four states.

and

• Wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha elections.

# Class-X Civics Political Parties

## Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]

- ✳️ Founded in 1980 → Reviving Bharatiya Jan Sangh formed by Syama prasad M. [1951]
- ✳️ Ideology ☹️??
  - India's ancient culture and value, Integral Humanism and Antyodaya.
  - Cultural nationalism → Indian nationhood
  - Integration of J&K, uniform Civil Code
- ✳️ Increase in support base → 1998  
[2014] largest party ← NDA ↓

## Indian National Congress [INC]

- ✳️ One of the oldest party [1885]
- ✳️ Played a dominant role in Indian politics for decades after Independence.
- ✳️ Ideology ☹️??
  - Aspires to build modern Secular democratic republic in India.
  - Centrist party, Supports new economic reform with human face.
- ✳️ Ruling party at the Center till 1977 → 1980-89.
- ✳️ Leader of UPA [2004-14] then principal opposition party.


# Class-X Civics Political Parties

## All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)

- ※ Launched on 1 Jan 1998  
↓  
Mamata Banerjee
- ※ Recognised as N.P in 2016.
- ※ Committed to Secularism and federalism
- ※ In power since 2011 in West Bengal  
[A.P, Manipur and Tripura]
- ※ General election 2014  
→ 3.84% votes and 34 seats.  
→ 4<sup>th</sup> largest party [2014 Lok Sabha]



## Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

- ※ Formed in 1999 → [split in Congress]
- ※ Ideology ☹️?? 
- Promotes democracy, Gandhian Secularism, Equity, Social justice and federalism.
- Wants that high offices in government be confined to natural born citizens of Country.
- ※ A major party in Maharashtra.  
[Meghalaya, Manipur and Assam]
- Since 2004, a member of United Progressive Alliance.

# Class-X Civics Political Parties

## Communist Party of India [CPI]

※ Formed in 1925 → Got split in 1964 and CPI(M).

### ※ Ideology

→ Believes in Marxism-Leninism, Secularism democracy.

→ opposed forces of secessionism and Communalism.

※ Significant presence in the states of Kerala, West Bengal, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh.

→ Strongest pillar in left front.

## Communist Party of India - Marxist [CPI-M]

※ Founded in 1964

### ※ Ideology

→ Same as CPI, Supported by poor factory worker, farmers, agricultural labourers and intelligentsia.

→ Critical of New economic policies that allow free flow of foreign Capital and goods

※ Was in power in West Bengal without a break for 34 years.

※ Enjoys Strong Support in W.B, Kerala and Tripura.



# Class-X Civics Political Parties

## Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

- ∴ Formed in 1984 → Under the leadership of Kanshi Ram.
- ∴ Seek to represent and secure power for the bahujan samaj [Dalits, adivasis, OBC's and Religious minorities.]
- ∴ Works on the ideological base of:
  - Sahu Maharaj
  - Mahatma Phule
  - Periyar Ramaswami
  - Ambedkar.
- ∴ Having a strong hold in Uttar Pradesh, formed government for several times by taking support of different parties.
- ∴ Presence in M.P, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Punjab.



# Class-X Civics Political Parties

## State Parties

※ Other than national parties many parties are classified as "State Parties".

※ Also known as 'Regional parties'

※ Making Indian Parliament diverse.

→ Vote proportion and seats to be recognised as a state party.

※ 6% votes in  
state legislative  
Assembly.

and

※ Wins atleast 2 seats.

↓  
※ Regional in outlook but plays a very important role in national politics. 😊??

→ National Parties are Compelled to form alliances with state parties.

→ Strengthening of federalism and Democracy.

Parties: Samajwadi party, Rashtriya Janta Dal, Shiv Sena, Telugu Desam party.

# Class-X Civics Political Parties

## Challenges to Political Parties?

### ❖ Lack of Internal democracy

- Concentration of power in one or few top leaders. → Decisions are taken by them only.
- No Organisational meetings, Internal election and power to ordinary members.
- Personal loyalty becomes more important.

### ❖ Challenge of dynastic succession

- Family domination on top positions.
- People with less experience or popular support come to occupy positions of Power.

### ❖ Money and muscle power.

- Use of short-cuts to win elections 😊??  
[Candidates with money, Criminal record are given priority]
- Corporate & Politics = Matter of Concern.

### ❖ Lack of Meaningful Choice.

- No significant difference among the political parties in terms plans and policies.
- Fundamental principals remains same.
- Ex: Labour party and Conservative party In Britain.

## Class X Civics Political Parties

### How Can Parties be reformed?

✧ Reform v/s Willingness to reform

✧ Efforts and Suggestions to reform political parties:

→ Constitutional amendment → to Stop MLAs and MPs from Defection.

→ Candidates are required to file an Affidavit → To Reduce money and muscle power.

→ Election Commission → Mandatory for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns.

→ Law to regulate internal affairs should be made. | → Minimum number of ticket should be given to women. | → There should be state funding of elections.

→ Role of People [Petition, Publicity and agitations], Active involvement of those who want the reform.